

Republic of Tajikistan

**FY 2002 QUARTERLY REPORT (4th Quarter)
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**Submitted to the
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
by the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES)**

July 1, 2002 – September 30, 2002

I. PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES

Elections Work

Election Law Reform

During this quarter, IFES/Tajikistan made preparations to host an International Election Law Standards Symposium, scheduled to take place on 30-31 October in Dushanbe. In July and August, IFES/Tajikistan held consultations with OSCE-ODIHR and UNDP regarding their possible participation in the event. OSCE/ODIHR agreed to provide an international election law expert, and International IDEA of Sweden, decided to contribute Russian language publications for the event. Mirzoali Baltuyev, the Chairman of the Central Commission on Elections and Referenda (CCER), and a number of Tajik parties pledged their participation in the event and commitment to address election reform on a systemic level.

By the end of September, the CCER expressed its desire to co-sponsor the event with IFES. It was also announced that the President Emomali Rakhmonov might make an appearance at the Symposium. In addition to solidifying commitments and participation with OSCE-ODIHR, IFES/Tajikistan made a number of key contacts during the ACEEEO (Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials) Conference in Moscow. There was also the prospect of the Russian Central Election Commission sending one or two representatives, including Chairman Alexander Veshnyakov, who may provide the keynote speech. From the IFES side, project managers of IFES/Kyrgyzstan and IFES/Macedonia have confirmed their participation.

A total of 45 - 50 participants and guests are expected to attend the symposium, including two participants from each political party and public movement, representatives from the Presidential Apparatus, the Ministry of Justice, the CCER, relevant committees of the Majlisi Namoyandagon, various accredited diplomatic missions, and international organizations. Through this event IFES hopes to engage the government with all stakeholders to start a discussion on the need to reform the Tajik election law and to engage all parties involved in election work in Tajikistan into a constructive and productive dialogue.

Political Party Development (PPD)

IFES met with representatives of all major political parties (all five registered parties) as well as a number of unregistered parties and movements on an individual basis during the quarter to consult on political developments and gauge the individual needs of each party for the upcoming workplan period. Particular attention was paid to the regional branches of the party and the need to improve overall party organization and communications, which has been the focus of IFES' seminar series during the present and previous quarters. IFES learned during the meetings with party officials, both on a national and regional level, that election-related concerns had emerged as one of the top concerns. As a result, IFES worked with partners in the international community, namely OSCE and the United Nations, to approach the issue of electoral sector reform directly with the Central Commission on Elections and Referenda and its Chairman, Mirzoali Baltuyev, a longtime associate of IFES. While a Working Group of international assistance providers, including IFES, was set up, this represented only the first step in what was hoped to develop into a working dialogue between the CCER, political parties, political interest groups, the presidential apparatus, and members of the Majlisi Oli, which oversees the CCER.

Discussions throughout the quarter centered on issues of registration requirements for the parties and candidates in the regions of Tajikistan. Recent by-elections in the country have been controversial due to the lack of alternatives to the PDPT candidate, and many, including most prominently the Islamic Renaissance Party, claim that opposition candidates have been barred from running due to frivolous registration issues. Sensing that these issues may be a portend of things to come, the parties expressed the desire to bring all issues to the fore well in advance of the next national elections in February, 2005. CCER Chairman Baltuyev indicated his support during the ACEEEEO Conference in Moscow for a series of election law discussions involving the Working Group and members of the government and opposition parties, and IFES has pledged to assist them in this regard by organizing the October 30-31 Symposium and following it up with regular round table discussions through the National Association of Political Scientists of Tajikistan (NAPST).

Political Party Development (PPD) Seminars

On September 18, IFES conducted a hands-on Political Party Development (PPD) Seminar on “Strategic Planning” in Dushanbe. All political parties and public movements, except the “Jumbish” movement, participated. All participants were broken into symbolic “mock” parties in order to break down the barriers that normally exist among political adversaries. The participants received instruction on the importance of long-term and short term strategy, culminating in an exercise in which each of the “mock” parties developed their own timelines for the long-term and short-term strategies in the run-up to the 2005 elections.

While it is hoped that there will be election law reform in the near future, the seminar helped to address the need to make plans based on the current law in order to ensure that a proper strategic framework is already in place even if the law changes. Additional focus was put on the need for parties to assess their strengths and weaknesses in order to solidify their base before attempting to strengthen regional branches. The seminar sought to help the parties understand their role in the current political environment – either as a governing party or an opposition party.

Working Group on Election Reform

On July 8, a “Working Group” meeting was held with IFES, UNTOP, OSCE, UNDP and the Swiss Office of Cooperation regarding the issue of Tajik election law reform. The situation with regards to needs and assistance opportunities was reviewed and a decision was made to reconsider recommendations made in the past few years regarding election and political party law reform. IFES provided the informal Working Group with a number of documents related to its past election and political party program law and election training, including election observation reports, law analyses and recommendations, and other issues.

The Working Group, headed by UNTOP Political Officer Brian Vitunic and including IFES Project Manager Christopher Shields, discussed viable solutions for improving the existing election code. The Group developed a matrix of key issues to be pursued with the Tajiks, including ballot access, party participation and the role of the CCER as an “independent” body, all issues which IFES will discuss during the scheduled symposium on October 30-31.

In the subsequent meeting based on analysis provided by IFES, six key areas were identified and agreed upon: an independent CCER with full political party participation; a clear demarcation of local government officials roles in the electoral process; the establishment of a unique and reliable voter list in electronic format; a more transparent party and candidate registration process; the establishment of an effective local election observer process, and an

increase in the political awareness of the general population. As with the International Election Law Standards Symposium, the goal of the Working Group is to explore all possible avenues for improving the current electoral situation in a way that will encourage the government to move forward.

Televised Parliamentary Roundtables

The fourth and final Parliamentary Outreach TV program sponsored by IFES and the office of the Parliamentary Press Secretary was broadcast from Leninskii on July 9. It is hoped that in the coming program year, this series will be held again, this time using a town hall format and in conjunction with private television stations of the Internews Network.

Civic Education

Civic Education Study Tour

In the 4th quarter, preparations continued for the upcoming IFES-sponsored Civic Education Study Tour, which will take place from November 2 to 9 in Zlin, Czech Republic. Christopher Shields is working with Junior Achievement International/Central and Eastern Europe Director of Development Megan Erhard regarding logistical arrangements for the Study Tour. Participants in the tour will include Mr. Munavvar Mullochaev, head of the Ministry of Education's International Relations Department, Akram Aslonov, Deputy Director of the Khojand City Education Department, and four of the top IFES Trained SAC Mentors and SLGD Teachers. IFES followed up with all tour candidates to ensure that they applied for and received their passports, to facilitate their participation on the trip.

The tour will provide training in advanced methodologies and strategies for civic education teaching, focusing on methodologies and best practices for teaching civic education. Participation will have extensive opportunities to meet with local colleagues in the education sector and compare experiences.

Democracy Summer Camp (DSC)

This quarter proved to be an intensive period for IFES Democracy Summer Camp programming. From July 2 - 9, cooperating with the local NGO *Chasmai Hayot* and other regional partners, IFES/Tajikistan held its second annual Sughd Oblast Democracy Summer Camp (DSC) at the Zuhai Campsite, located in Kayrakkum, fifteen kilometers outside Khojand. Seventy students from Sughd Oblast participated in the event. In addition to strengthening their knowledge about civil society, human rights, and elections, the students were encouraged to consider creating Student Action Committees (SACs) in their respective schools. During the question and answer session, Christopher Shields was able to meet with all the students and talk about how democracy works in other countries. Khojand TV station SM-1 aired a 25-minute report on the highlights of the Sughd Oblast DSC.

In August, together with the local NGO *Mehr* and five local organizations, IFES held a second Summer Camp at the Karatag Campsite located in Shahrinav district, 50 kilometers from Dushanbe. Almost 90 students from Dushanbe, Kurghon-Teppa, Kulyab, Yovon, Gissar and Shahrinav districts attended the event, held August 4 - 11. The IFES/Tajikistan Project Manager, Care International Director and DCM of the US Embassy in Tajikistan attended the opening ceremony. The camp was also visited by IFES/Washington Director for Europe and Eurasia, Scott Lansell.

During the camp, local NGOs *Civilization*, *Sitora*, *Marifat*, *Association of Young Leaders*, *Mehr* and *Social Partnership* made presentations on international norms of democracy, critical thinking, women's rights, youth rights, human rights, voter rights and SAC/SLGD programs. In addition, based on activities from the IFES civic education textbook – students were given an opportunity to decide themselves which laws and rights are most important and how to use their rights to influence decision-making among governmental representatives.

Perhaps the most compelling part of the Summer Camp was the student elections, as for the first time in history of IFES Summer Camp elections, the results of the elections were considered invalid as neither of two candidates received the plurality of votes. The Student election commission declared repeat elections and a new registered candidate won the elections with 52 percent of the vote. Students thought that these elections were “really democratic” and felt that this Camp was the first time they have had such an interactive learning experience.

Overall, both Summer Camps proved to be a success, as the students left the camps with a better understanding of democracy and its principles. According to entrance and exit exams, administered at the camps, while many students initially exhibited a weak knowledge of civics, this improved dramatically after participating in the DSC trainings and activities.

The idea of the Democracy Summer Camps was to provide students with a hands-on interactive learning experience, thereby creating an indelible impression of and appreciation for democracy as a point of governance. Several exercises from the IFES civics textbook project were used during the training, and students responded to these very favorably; of particular note was the elections exercise, which the students took very seriously. It is hoped such experiences will stay with the students into adult life. IFES plans on assessing impact of the camps by interviewing students at a later time to see how they have applied the knowledge gained at the camps. An equally important part of the camps was the leadership training provided to the students including advocacy training. It is hoped students will assume leadership roles at their schools and among their peers. All students who participated were selected on a competitive basis, based on the results of written and oral examination and interviews.

General Textbook Issues

By the end of September, the first three chapters of Volume One of the textbook were translated into Tajik and submitted back to IFES for review. Eight more chapters of the English version of the textbook were also given to textbook translator Habib Mirzoev for translation into Tajik. While the Russian version of the initial draft textbook was already submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval, additional chapters were added this quarter. This new material for Volume One will be held over until the pilot project is completed and a revised edition is developed thereafter.

By the end of the quarter, only five chapters remained to be completed in Russian prior to finalizing the first draft of Volume Two of the textbook. Once completed, these will be translated into English and sent to Washington for additional consideration. In addition, work continued on finalizing the teacher's guide that will accompany the textbook.

Piloting the IFES civic education course in the schools of Tajikistan was set to begin in September, starting with Russian schools in and around Dushanbe.

Pilot School Selection Process and Teacher Training

In September, IFES visited schools in Gissor, Shahrinav and Yovon districts and met with civic education teachers to discuss the introduction of the IFES textbook into their schools during the upcoming pilot project. IFES/Tajikistan visited Schools #1, 101, 75, 2, and 6 in Tursun-Zade; Schools #1 and 21 in Shahrinav; Schools #1 and 14 in Gissor, as well as other schools in the city of Kurghon-Teppa and the Leninskii and Kofarnighon districts. Efforts were also made to identify additional Russian-language pilot schools. IFES visited four of local schools partnering in student activities to determine which of them teach in Russian. During meetings with school directors and civic education teachers, IFES discussed the textbook project, planned teacher training seminars and the new timetable for implementation. The project was met with great enthusiasm by teachers, who have been lacking credible, quality teaching tools for many years.

Planning for the teacher training commenced in September, with a draft agenda and training schedule expected to be completed in early October, depending on finalization of the Letter of Agreement with the Ministry of Education. The 2002-03 training schedule will include 14 districts and towns of Sughd Oblast, the GBAO, and the extended Dushanbe region, with seminars to begin the second week of October. The training program will reach teachers in up to 500 schools, which will ensure quality interactive instruction of the course.

Student Activities

In preparation for distribution for the upcoming series of training seminars, the Student Action Committee (SAC) and Student Local Government Day (SLGD) training manuals were revised and reprinted. Initial contacts were made with authorities in local schools who will be partnering with IFES on student activities on the civic education textbook pilot project, as well as with IFES' group of existing school partners across the country. IFES is aiming to increase the number of participating schools in the student activities program, as it has done each year of its Cooperative Agreement. IFES staff traveled to the CARE/Tajikistan schools that participated in the Dushanbe/Khatlon DSC to meet with civic education teachers and discuss their participation in SAC/SLGD and the IFES Civic Education textbook projects. IFES also met with Mr. Khalil Mirzoev, the Head of Gissor Education Department and discussed the possibility of conducting SAC and SLGD trainings for secondary school teachers in the district. Mr. Mirzoev welcomed the IFES initiative and indicated his desire to cooperate. Such expansion of student activities to new schools and regions will help IFES to create a more nationwide, comprehensive approach to mobilizing student activism and instituting the civic education course and extracurricular activities program in the country. IFES has linked the textbook program and the extracurricular activities together for the upcoming schoolyear, due to the ease in which the former can be introduced into existing, participating schools. The extracurricular activities have run independently of the textbook project during its developmental period, though will be introduced together as natural partner activities in 2002-03.

II. MATERIALS PRODUCED

- Draft Civics and Democracy Textbook for Secondary Schools – Volume I (in Russian and English) AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM IFES/TAJIKISTAN
- Revised manual for Student Action Committees
- Revised manual for Student Local Government Day

III. ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

During the fourth quarter, IFES/Tajikistan moved forward on its political party and civic education projects as it transitioned into the new fiscal year. The issue of elections took on greater prominence with the Central Committee on Election and Referenda embarking on an apparent reform initiative, and IFES responding to the CCER's request for assistance by organizing an Elections Symposium at the end of October. IFES has, under the guidance of USAID and the Embassy, been constructively engaging the CCER on election law and systemic reform issues, and it is hoped that the Symposium will advance the process of election reform and stimulate a productive working discussion between the CCER, parliament, and the office of the president.

The political party development program continues to focus on training regional party branches on communications and outreach strategies. IFES will expand its focus more to the regions outside of Dushanbe, as well as areas in Sughd Oblast of the Ferghana Valley. The strategy is part of the IFES effort to help build up regional party structures and improve party organization at the local level. Parties and local officials will be engaged in dialogue through the made-for-television discussion group series, which has traditionally drawn great interest from viewers.

The textbook and course took on greater significance as part of the civic education effort, and IFES appeared closer to gaining the full approval of the Ministry of Education to commence piloting the course in schools. Official recognition of the entire package of projects, including the Student Action Committees and Student Local Government Days (which have been running for two years already) is also imminent in the form of a Letter of Understanding to be signed between the Minister of Education and IFES, and witnessed by U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan Franklin Huddle. The SAC and SLGD schedule has been finalized, and work commenced as the new schoolyear began in September. IFES expects to increase the number of participating schools, students and teachers in the 2002-03 campaign according to its workplan forecast.

Program Type	R4 code	Project	Project Goals	*Project Indicators	Status of Goals and Indicators
YEAR END BENCHMARK ANALYSIS - 2001-2002					
IFES TAJIKISTAN *Original benchmark numbers have been updated in some instances from the workplans due to revised expectations and field circumstances.					
Civ Ed 1	SO 2.1 IR 2.1.2 IR 2.1.3	Textbook & Curriculum	Development and approval of a textbook and teachers' guide by the Ministry of Education (after completion Memorandum of Understanding). Identification and selection of pilot schools; schedule and conduct teacher training.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conclude Memorandum of Understanding. 2. Development of textbook. 3. Develop Teachers Guide. 4. Select 10 schools each in 4 regions 5. Minimum participation of 600 students in pilot courses. 6. Conduct Teacher Training 	Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) updated and revised by IFES DC and USAID/CAR. Signing is expected to take place in November. Textbook divided into two volumes to speed process. Volume One under review by the Ministry of Education. Teachers' Guide for Volume One is also ready. Volume Two is under development. School selection process and Teacher Training process to begin once MoU is concluded. Many sites have been tentatively determined, with the input from the World Bank, OSI, and CARE to follow. IFES Civic Education database will form starting point for the selection process, along with CARE starter schools in Yovon District.
Civ Ed 2	SO 2.1 IR 2.1.2 IR 2.1.3	Pilot Course	Upon school selection, teacher training and approval of Ministry of Education, begin pilot Civic Education courses for 9th Grade students.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek and gain approval of Ministry of Education. 	Awaiting conclusion of Letter of Agreement. Registration completed in May, allowing process to move forward.
Civ Ed 3	IR 2.1.1 IR 2.1.2 IR 2.1.3	Student Action Committees (SAC)	Provide programs to allow high school students experience "Democracy in Action" through establishment of student community action groups.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of 12 SACs in at least 3 communities. 2. Goal of involving 180 students 	16 SACs have been established in Khurgon Teppa, Dushanbe, and Khojand, with 151 students officially participating although a large number of one-time volunteers have been involved at some schools. Kulyab SACs achieved proto-type stage, but did not engage in any activities prior to the end of the school year.
Civ Ed 4	IR 2.1.2 IR 2.1.3	Student Local Government Days (SLGD)	Continue SLGD events where top students learn about local government and citizens' role in civil society by spending a day shadowing members of local Hukumats, Majlisis, courts or other public officials to observe and experience the workings of government at the local level. Students will share their experiences with their classmates after the event, thus educating more students about representative government and stimulating interest in working as public servants for the betterment of the community.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A minimum of 4 SLGDs to be conducted around the country. 2. Minimum of 75 - 80 students participating. 	4 SLGDs were held, in Khurgon Teppa, Kulyab, Khojand and Leninskii, with 73 students participating. Follow-up meetings have been held (with the final SLGD report compiled).
Civ Ed 5	IR 2.1.1 IR 2.1.2 IR 2.1.3	Democracy Summer Camp (DSC)	Students from grades 9-11 gather for one week to participate in intense study and hands-on experience with activities promoting democratic governance.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A minimum of 2 DSCs to be conducted in select regions. 2. Minimum of 140 students participating. 3. Anticipated funding contribution from IFES: approx 70% (Dushanbe/ARP) and 85% (Khatlon) of the total cost of the camps. 	Sughd Province DSC was held 2 - 9 July, with 68 students participating. Khojand NGO Chasmai Hayot was the lead local partner. Dushanbe/Khatlon DSC was held 4 - 12 August, with NGO Mehr as lead local partner and 90 students participating. Additionally, Students from the CARE education project in Yovon District were selected to join the DSC participants, allowing the addition of an extra day's seminar track on SAC and SLGD programming. While it was anticipated that outside sources would contribute funding toward the cost of the summer camps, this proved to be an unrealistic goal due to high standards of the DCSs and limited outside funding.

*original benchmark numbers have been updated in some instances due to revised expectations and field circumstances.

Program Type	R4 code	Project	Project Goals	*Project Indicators	Status of Goals and Indicators
Civ Ed 6	IR 2.1.2 IR 2.1.3	University Curriculum	Develop pilot University Curriculum based on existing IFES materials developed to introduce the study of political parties, elections and gender issues.	1. A minimum of 30 students at one university in Dushanbe to participate.	Possible roundtable for university students was considered regarding Civic Education curriculum at university level, but little interest was shown at this time. Initiative will be revised in 2002-2003.
PPD 1	SO 2.1 IR 2.1.1 IR 2.1.2 IR 2.1.3	Political Party Training Seminars (Organizational Development)	Conduct a series of six political party training seminars around the country to develop their capacity to expand membership.	1. Establish 6 political party outreach committees to increase membership. 2. Work with 3 parties to develop Long Term Goals. 3. Establish 3 new Party Branches. 4. Increase visibility of 3 parties in Khatlon Oblast.	All 6 seminars conducted; goals and outreach strategies discussed and developed. Only 5 parties currently registered, all conducting membership expansion efforts based on existing methods, few new branches, and little resources available. Continued tensions in Khatlon require rethink of Project Indicators.

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Program Type	R4 code	Project	Project Goals	*Project Indicators	Status of Goals and Indicators
PPD 2	IR 2.1.1	Political Party Development Manual	Limited publication in Tajik and Russian of Political Party Development Manual	1. Publish and distribute Political Party Development Manual.	Draft copy in Russian reviewed by Dr. Abdughani Mamadnazarov of IFES' local NGO partner NAPST, who is preparing comments. All political parties have been provided both print and electronic copies of the document, also for review and possible comment. Cut off date for comments is 1 September.
PPD 3	IR 2.1.1 IR 2.1.2 IR 2.1.3	Youth & Gender Outreach	Building on Year One activities, expand Youth and Gender efforts among political parties.	1. Conduct three regional sessions in Khurgon Teppa, Kulyab, and Tursun Zade. 2. Oversee establishment of 3 Youth and Women's Committees at the regional party level. 3. Conduct a survey of the political parties to measure progress in Youth and Gender issues.	Follow-up discussions held with parties found that all have created Youth and Gender Committees. Party-by-party survey conducted in June indicates that basic goals have been met. Follow up meetings in regions, beginning in September to determine depth of project impact.
PPD 4	IR 2.1.1 IR 2.1.2 IR 2.1.3	Parliamentary & Political Party Intra-Relations	Work with Parliamentary Political Parties to improve intra-relationships with their respective parties, encourage establishment of gender caucuses.	1. Conduct at least 5 party-parliament meetings to encourage and develop working relationship between party officials and respective parliamentary deputies. 2. Encourage development of a gender caucus in the parliament. 3. Attempt to establish mechanism for allowing parties/movements not in parliament to have input with deputies.	Five televised round table sessions were conducted in 4 locations in April to July, combining two objectives into one - developing relations between party officials and respective parliamentary deputies and providing greater exposure of national and local Majlis and Political Party leaders among the general public. Development of a gender caucus is currently not feasible as Deputy Speaker of Parliament determined that no gender caucus will be formed during the term of this parliament, citing "lack of need". PPD Assistant and Press Secretary to the Parliament finalized format and schedule for additional TV roundtables in 2002-2003.
PPD 5	IR 2.1.2 IR 2.1.3	Political Party Media Outreach	Conduct series of televised talk shows featuring Members of National and/or Local Majlis Leaders and National or Local Political Party Leaders to provide greater exposure of such leaders among the general public in a small group debate-style format.	1. Conduct 4 television shows in 4 locations. 2. Conduct media preference sampling of shows with help of First Press Club and Mediapolis.	
EA 1	SO 2.1 IR 2.1.3 IR 2.1.3.2.1 IR 2.1.3.2.2	Election Law Reform	Maintain contact with (CCER) Central Committee on Elections and Referenda and encourage electoral reform. IFES will submit a supplement to the work plan consideration if movement takes place.	1. Conduct periodic meetings with the CCER to maintain contact and determine environment for change.	International Election Law Standards Symposium accepted for AED funding by USAID, with a tentative date of 30/31 October, with OSCE-ODIHR, UNDP and other international organisations participating.

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